MY BLUE MOUNTAINS WOODLAND

PARTNERS EMPOWERING LANDOWNERS IN NORTHEASTERN OREGON TO REDUCE FIRE RISK AND PROTECT THE FOREST VALUES IMPORTANT TO THEM.
Ownership and Relative Harvest Volumes
Baker, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties

Acreage of Ownership (1,000 acres)

- **USFS**: 71%
- **Large Private**: 10%
- **Small Private**: 18%
- **State/Other**: 1%

1992 Timber Harvest (MBF)
- Total Harvest: 456 MMBF
- **USFS**: 38%
- **Large Private**: 36%
- **Small Private**: 26%
- **State/Other**: 0%

2015 Timber Harvest (MBF)
- Total Harvest: 123 MMBF
- **USFS**: 34%
- **Large Private**: 56%
- **Small Private**: 0%
- **State/Other**: 10%

27% of 1992 Harvest
Wallowa County Timber Harvest (MBF) 1962-2015
Our story

As in many parts of the rural West, life is changing in Northeast Oregon. Timber production from federal land has dropped precipitously in the last 20 years, upending the economic foundation of communities. Land values and property taxes have skyrocketed as ownership patterns have changed. And the forests themselves are changing. Grand and Douglas Fir now choke stands once dominated by Ponderosa Pine. Dense, water-stressed forests are more vulnerable to insect infestations. Uncharacteristically dense forests lead to a higher risk of severe fire. And fire itself has changed. Having shaped forests for millennia, fire seasons are growing longer, fires themselves are bigger and more difficult to manage, and firefighting costs are through the roof.

Invariably, action or inaction on one side of a property line has impacts on the other. And these impacts are particularly acute in this rugged country where almost half of the forest land isn’t owned by the federal government, but by individuals and families. Fire on poorly managed lands threatens not only residents’ homes and many forest landowners’ livelihoods, but also wildlife habitat and water quality. Formed in June 2014, My Blue Mountains Woodland is dedicated to helping family forest landowners protect the values they hold for their land.

Our partners include:

- OSU Oregon State University Extension Service
- American Forest Foundation
- WRC Resources for the greatest good
- Oregon Forest Resources Institute
- USDA United States Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
We’ve pulled together resources from multiple organizations to help historically unengaged landowners get involved.

My Blue Mountains Woodland Forest Resources

Oregonians in general and landowners in the Blue Mountains in particular are surrounded by an abundance of natural wealth and beauty. We are fortunate to also have a tremendous wealth of information about our lands and waters, including what makes them tick, and what they need to thrive.

This page includes tips on getting started, comprehensive publications, useful contacts, and links to other online resources that can help you realize your vision for your forest.

Getting Started

Here are some good first questions to ask and steps you can take that will help you move forward on your forest goals.

READ MORE: GETTING STARTED

Additional online tools and resources for landowners

OSU Extension Service offers information on trees and woodlands, forest management programs, classes, publications, and other tips and resources.

My Land Plan can help you explore and discover how to manage your woodlands. Easy to use tools guide you to map your land, set goals, keep a

Contact information for consultants, contractors, agencies, landowner associations & emergency services.

Baker

Umatilla

Union

Wallowa

Foresters

Baker County
OSU Forestry Extension
Agent: Bob Parker
(541) 523-6418
bob.parker@oregonstate.edu

ODF Stewardship Forester
Logan McCrae
(541) 523-5831
lmccrae@odf.state.or.us

Umatilla County
We give landowners support for active land management by offering information, forester visits, and mentors.
A major emphasis is on fire risk reduction, both for individual properties and on a landscape level.
We are working to appeal to people on multiple fronts and to build on existing interests and community strengths.
More than 250 landowners in Baker, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties have joined MBMW.
Workshops and tours offer landowners an opportunity to learn more about specific issues and resources, ask questions, and benefit from the experiences of their neighbors.
More than 100 landowners have joined our email list; they receive bi-monthly tips as well as information about upcoming community events.
2017 outreach is focused on opportunities for technical/financial assistance and Wellness Reports.
Landowners own woodlands for many different reasons, but it is in everyone’s interest to have more resilient forests.
Lessons Learned

• Challenges for Landowners
  – Cost of management (and lack of markets)
  – Time for management
• Takes multiple contacts to engage landowners
• A lot of absentee landowners (about 30%)
• Many want assistance developing a management plan – getting it on paper!
• Landowners demonstrate strong market sensitivity – don’t manage when markets are down
• Growth on small private lands greatly exceeds harvest levels.
Lessons Learned

• We are still improving our ability to leverage strengths of each partner and coordinating this for easy access and use.

• One stop shop – great ideal – but takes time to build strong execution

• Fear of fire not enough to motivate landowners
  – Need positive actions and incentives
  – For example - Interest in Tree Farm Certification
Lessons Learned

• Landowners are interested in sharing equipment, tools, contractors.
• Neighbor mentors are a powerful resource.
• Landowner cooperation is good for landowners, contractors and our mills.

“Win-Win”
Questions

• Why are you - or are you not – managing your forest today?
• What sort of assistance, training or support would be most helpful to you?
• What support is lacking today? What’s your biggest challenge or obstacle?
• Is trying to coordinate technical assistance valuable?
• How can we help landowners work together?
• What more could we do as a group – a team – committed to the health of our forest landscapes, landowners, and workforce?